



File Code: 1570

Date:

MAR 18 2021

Dear Objector(s):

This is my response to objections filed on the draft record of decision for the Snow King Mountain Resort On-Mountain Improvements Project on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Forest Supervisor Patricia O'Connor is the responsible official. I am the Official Reviewing Officer. Acting Deputy Regional Forester, Jim DeMaagd served as Official Reviewing Officer until his temporary assignment ended the last week of February 2021. I have consulted with him on this objection response to conclude this review.

The draft record of decision, final environmental impact statement, and associated environmental documents were published on October 9, 2020, initiating a 45-day objection filing period. Forty-seven eligible objectors filed timely objections. Objections were also received from eight individuals who did not meet objection filing requirements. All eligible objectors are receiving notification of my response. The response and all documentation can also be found on the Bridger-Teton National Forest website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54201>.

The objection review was conducted in accordance with the pre-decisional administrative review process described in the Code of Federal Regulations at 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B. The intent of this step is to allow interested individuals and organizations one last opportunity to weigh in and potentially resolve issues before a final project decision.

After an initial review of objections, the Forest Service held resolution meetings on January 29, February 2, and February 3, 2021, with objectors to discuss a subset of the issues and explore opportunities for reasonable solutions to conflicting views. Discussions at the meetings helped us better understand the issues and remedies suggested by some of the objectors. I appreciate the time spent by all the participants, and the willingness to have open, candid discussions. I encourage the objectors and the responsible official to continue to engage with each other during implementation of the project, once a final decision has been made.

Objections covered a broad range of resource management and public use concerns. The 36 CFR 218 Objection Regulations require a written response to the objections; however, the response need not be point by point. Therefore, all objections have been consolidated into one set of issues.

My response is the outcome of a deliberative and extensive review of concerns raised by objectors involving complex regulatory and management issues. It reflects my findings from an independent review of the project record, the objections, discussions with objectors at the resolution meetings, and follow up conversations with the responsible official in the context of law, regulation, and policy.



Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Bridger-Teton National Forest's effort over the last several years. If you have any questions concerning the processing of your objection, please contact the Administrative Review Coordinator, Pete Gomben at peter.gomben@usda.gov.

This letter and enclosed attachment are the documentation that complete my objection review. Once my instructions have been addressed, Forest Supervisor O'Connor will sign the record of decision for the Snow King Mountain Resort On-Mountain Improvements Project. This written response is the final decision for all objections to the project and is not subject to further administrative review by the Forest Service or United States Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

RYAN NEHL
Digitally signed by RYAN
NEHL
Date: 2021.03.18
09:49:09 -06'00'

RYAN NEHL
Acting Deputy Regional Forester, Official Reviewing Officer

Enclosure

cc: Patricia O'Connor, Christopher Moyer, Pete Gomben, Anita Delong